MEETING OF THE COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS
24 June 1964

		Page
SUBMISSIONS-REVIEWS-INTERVIEWS		
1.	General Services Administration-National Air Museum	1-2
2.	D.C. Govt., Dept. of Licenses and Inspections-Watergate Development, Bldg Nos. 3 and 4	2-3
	Proposed Office Bldg. 500 North Capitol St., N.W.	3
3.	D.C. Govt., Dept. of Bldgs. and Grounds	
	a. Junior High School, 16th and Irving Sts., N.W.	34
	b. J.Hayden Junior High School, Bruce & Robinson Sts., S.E.	4
	c. Refenestration of District Bldg.	4
4.	Dept. of the Navy, Area Public Works Office	
	a. Operations and Technical Services Bldg.	5
	b. Sector Focusing Cyclotron Bldg.	5-6

MEETING OF THE COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS
24 June 1964

The Commission met, pursuant to notice, at 9:30 a.m., with William Walton, Chairman, presiding.

Present were: Members: William Walton
Gordon Bunshaft
Burnham Kelly
Theodore Roszak
Hideo Sasaki
John Carl Warnecke

Staff: L.R. Wilson, Secretary
C.H. Atherton, Asst.Secy.
C.L. Martin, Counsel
Myra Younker, Editor
Leone M. Vialpando, Reporter

SUBMISSIONS-REVIEWS-INTERVIEWS

1. General Services Administration, Public Buildings Service

National Air Museum - Design Studies and Samples of Exterior Materials

Mr. Gyo Obata, architect, Mr. Karel Yasko and Mr. J. Rowland Snyder, Public Buildings Service, met with the Commission to present further developments of the design for the National Air and Space Museum.

Mr. Obata stated that in accordance with the Commission's recommendation that the cornice line should be strengthened it was proposed that a row of small windows be introduced at the roof line all around the building, except at the corners which would be solid. He explained that it was not possible to have windows all the way around because this would weaken the top of the building structurally.

The members thought the addition of a row of windows had improved the appearance of the top of the building and gave it greater strength, but they thought the windows should extend all the way around the building with no solid corners. They suggested that the architect study the possibility of setting the glass back from the facade so that only the openings would appear on the surface. They thought this step would solve the structural problem.

Mr. Obata explained that it was proposed that 5 x 10 foot pre-cast concrete aggragate panels would be used on all of the main structural elements of the building on the interior and exterior, with four or five

variations in the texture of the aggragate. The color would match the color of the Tennessee Pink granite used in the National Gallery of Art building.

The members of the Commission had been under the impression from the drawings and renderings submitted that the building was to be a reinforced concrete structure. They were therefore somewhat surprised to learn that the building was proposed as essentially a steel structure, which was the reason for the proposed use of pre-cast panels. Mr. Obata stated that steel girders would be used as trusses to support the floors and that it was thought the towers within the building should likewise be constructed of steel. The architect members of the Commission were of the opinion that because of its scale and size the structure should be of poured-in-place concrete where possible. They urged the architect to give serious consideration to this suggestion. They were of the opinion that the jointing of the aggragate would be more successful if the concrete were poured in place and that a more vigorous aggragate would result. They suggested that large mock-up samples of the aggragate should be made on the site.

The Chairman was authorized to send a letter setting forth the Commission's views. EXHIBIT A

2. District of Columbia Government, Department of Licenses and Inspections

✓a. Watergate Development, Building Nos. 3 and 4 - Proposed Design

Mr. Gabor Acs, architect, and representatives of the Island Vista Corporation, met with the Commission to discuss preliminary plans for an office building and hotel in the Watergate Development.

Mr. Acs explained that there were several problems involved in the two buildings which the architects had not completely solved and he directed the Commission's attention specifically to these questions. One was the shape of the Virginia Avenue facade of the office building. He showed the members two alternative designs for this facade - one with a projecting portion in the center all the way from the ground level to the roofline, and another with the projection only on the second through the fifth floors. The members of the Commission thought that they should see the shape of the building in model form but were of the opinion that the second alternative (as shown in Drawing 2-A) was the preferable form.

There was a general discussion of another problem - the connecting link between the two buildings. Mr. Acs stated that the architects had not completely solved this problem to their own satisfaction and would submit further studies on it at a later date.

The final question related to the character of the facades of the

hotel building. Mr. Acs explained that it was felt that balconies on this building were not as essential as in the apartment building. At the same time the architects thought the facades should carry out the theme established by the balconies. He showed the members several drawings in which decorative elements were applied to the facades in order to accomplish this end. The members thought these elements might be greatly simplified.

Following the general discussion the Commission approved the plans in so far as they related to height, bulk, and structure, provided the bulk of the office building had a projecting portion on the Virginia Avenue elevation only on the second through the fifth floors, and details of projecting fins, balconies and other decorative elements were submitted at a later date.

b. Proposed Office Building, 500 North Capitol Street, N.W.-Revised Design

Mr. Alan Lockman, architect, and Mr. William Lescaze, consulting architect, met with the Commission to present a revised design for the building which will face Union Station Plaza. The revised design showed a predominately masonry building with punched windows, a recessed arcade, and a loggia at the penthouse.

The members thought that the revised design was basically good in so far as the general massing was concerned and that with further study of the facades could result in an acceptable building. They suggested that the architects consider deeper setbacks on the ground and penthouse floors, and that some element reflecting the interior framing system be introduced in place of the traditional punched windows.

The Chairman was authorized to send a letter setting forth the Commission's views. EXHIBIT B

3. District of Columbia Government, Department of Buildings and Grounds

a. Junior High School, 16th and Irving Sts., N.W.-Revised Design

Mr. Ronald Senseman, architect, and Mr. G. A. Purcell, Liaison Officer, D. C. Department of Buildings and Grounds, met with the Commission to discuss a revised design for the school.

Mr. Senseman showed the members plans and renderings and pointed out the changes which had been made to the original design presented in February, 1964. It was noted that the plan for the building had been altered to eliminate the irregular projections, bays and protruding wings in the earlier submission, so that the building plan was almost rectangular in shape.

The members thought that the changes in the organization of the structure were a great improvement. However, they thought that the architectural treatment of the facades tended to overemphasize the vertical elements and recommended that the architect restudy the facades with a greater expression given to the floors and other horizontal elements. They also suggested that if the stairwells on the Irving Street elevation were recessed into the building further the three stories of classrooms between them would be more clearly articulated.

The Chairman was authorized to send a letter setting forth the recommendations of the Commission. EXHIBIT C

✓ b. J. Hayden Johnson Junior High School, Bruce and Robinson Streets, S.E. - Proposed Design

Mr. Stanley Arthur, architect, and Mr. Purcell presented the design of a 1500 pupil junior high school to be erected adjoining the grounds of St. Elizabeth Hospital in Southeast Washington.

Mr. Arthur showed the members a scale model and drawings and explained the functions of various parts of the building. He pointed out that the structure would be constructed of exposed concrete, red Occaquan brick, and gray glass. He explained that he was obliged by the School Board to utilize Occaquan brick.

The members were of the opinion that the proposed plan and architectural design of the building were excellent. However, they recommended that further study be given to the front entranceway. They suggested that the entrance and covered walkways could be unified into a single courtyard with two entrances - one to the auditorium and one to the lobby - instead of three. They also thought that the architect should have the privilege of choosing from a variety of brick colors if he thought the Occaquan brick was not appropriate.

The Chairman was authorized to send a letter giving the Commission's recommendations. EXHIBIT D

c. Refenestration of District Building

Mr. Purcell explained that because of their deteriorating condition it had become necessary to replace the window sash in all of the windows at the District Government Building at 14th and E Streets, N.W. It was proposed that the existing wooden sash would be replaced with treated aluminum.

After examining photographs of the existing conditions the members

were of the opinion that the best thing that could be done would be to replace the individual air conditioning units with central air conditioning system, but since they were assured that this was impossible they recommended that the aluminum trim be a dark bronze color and the units painted black to minimize their effect.

The Chairman was authorized to send a letter setting forth the Commission's recommendation. EXHIBIT E

5. Department of the Navy, Area Public Works Office

a. Operations and Technical Services Building - Proposed Design

Mr. Paul Hayes, architect, of Hayes, Seay, Mattern & Mattern and Lt. Eugene Burdick, Area Public Works Officer, met with the Commission to discuss a proposed design for the building.

Mr. Hayes explained that the building would serve as the telephone and mail center for the entire Naval Research Laboratory and would house supply, technical information, and Security Pass offices. The exterior materials of construction would be pre-cast concrete on the columns and fascia, with gray glass and brick between the columns. The base or podium would be heavily textured exposed gray aggragate.

In the discussion the members stated that they thought the general layout, mass, and proportions of the building were good, but that the elevations needed a clearer expression of the fact that it was a two story building. They suggested that the exterior should express the interior framing system if this were possible and that the vertical interim columns at 10 foot intervals which were not a part of the framing system were arbitrary and unnecessary. Mr. Hayes then showed the members an earlier design for the building which he thought might meet the Commission's criticisms. The members agreed that this design was the better of the two and with further study of the details could be developed into a satisfactory building. They recommended that an overhang on the cornice be eliminated and the column faces and floor slabs made flush. The architect agreed to submit further studies at a later date.

The Chairman was authorized to send a letter setting forth the Commission's recommendations. EXHIBIT F

b. Sector Focusing Cyclotron Building - Revised Design

Lt. Burdick reported that despite their best efforts the Area Public Works Office and the architects were not able to present a revised plan for the building which they thought would honestly meet the criticisms

of the Commission voiced at the meeting on May 20th, but they would like to present the revisions as soon as they were ready.

Thereafter, at 12:30 p.m. the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

C. L. Martin

C. L. Martin
Counsel

MEETING OF THE COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS
24 June 1964

AM
9:30 CONVENE, ROOM 7000, INTERIOR DEPARTMENT BUILDING

SUBMISSIONS-REVIEWS-INTERVIEWS

9:35 1. General Services Administration, Public Buildings Service

National Air Museum - Design Studies & Samples of Exterior Materials

(Mr. Karel Yasko, Asst. Commissioner of Design & Construction, PBS; Mr. J. Rowland Snyder, Director, Design Division, PBS; Mr. James Jones, Project Manager, PBS; Mr. James Bradley, Asst. Secretary, Smithsonian Institution; Mr. Gyo Obata, Architect)

2. District of Columbia Government, Department of Licenses & Inspections

10:00 a. Watergate Development, Building Nos. 3 and 4 - Proposed Design

(Mr. Julian P. Green, Asst. Superintendent of Licenses & Permits; representatives of Watergate Development)

10:30 b. Proposed Apartment Building, 500 North Capitol St., N.W. - Revised Design

(Mr. Green; Mr. Alan Lockman, architect)

11:00 3. Franklin Delano Roosevelt Memorial Commission

Franklin Delano Roosevelt Memorial

(Mr. Francis Biddle, Chairman, Franklin D. Roosevelt Memorial Commission; Mr. James Rowe, member, Memorial Commission; Mr. William F. Pedersen, Mr. Bradford S. Tilney, Mr. Norman Hoberman, Mr. Joseph Wasserman, Mr. David Beer, architects)

11:30 4. District of Columbia Government, Department of Buildings & Grounds

a. Junior High School, 16th & Irving Sts., N.W. - Revised Design

(Mr. G. A. Purcell, Liaison Officer, D.C.Dept. of Bldgs. & Grounds; Mr. Ronald Sensemen, architect)

11:45 b. J. Hayden Johnson Junior High School, Bruce & Robinson Sts., S.E. - Proposed Design

(Mr. Purcell; Mr. Stanley H. Arthur, Architect)

12:00 c. Refenestration of District Building

(Mr. Purcell)

PM

12:15 5. Department of the Interior, National Park Service, National Capital Region

Lafayette Park - Proposed Redevelopment

(Mr. T. Sutton Jett, Regional Director, National Capital Region; Mr. Robert C. Horne, Associate Regional Director; Mr. Elwood Rensch, Chief Landscape Architect)

12:30 6. Department of the Navy, Area Public Works Office

U. S. Naval Research Laboratory:

a. Sector Focusing Cyclotron Building - Revised Design

b. Operations and Technical Services Building - Proposed Design

(Mr. Rosetti, Mr. Hockburn, Captain Enger, Lt. Burdick, Area Public Works Office; Mr. Nelson, Bureau of Yards & Docks)

ADJOURN

July 9, 1964

Dear Mr. Boutin:

At its meeting on June 24th, the Commission of Fine Arts considered detailed studies of the National Air and Space Museum which architect, Gyo Obata has developed since the first presentation on April 14th.

The design appears to be moving along well in the direction shown in earlier sketches. The cornice has been simplified and several projecting bays have been eliminated at the ends of the building which help the design considerably.

The treatment of the cornice itself needs further study. Rather than terminate the row of windows short of the corners, it was suggested that they be carried all the way around, and at the same time, increasing the depth of the window openings in order to give the effect of a sculptured frieze.

The use of concrete on the piers and other solid areas of the facade was also discussed at some length. In order to emphasize the solidity of these elements the concrete should be poured in place if at all possible. The Commission believes that the series of panels proposed by the architect would look too much like a veneer to effectively contrast with the large areas of glass.

The color of the aggregate used in the concrete is particularly important and should be carefully studied using large mock-ups of sample wall sections erected in the field before any final selections are made. Probably the best aggregate for this use will be granite chips.

The next meeting of the Commission is scheduled for September 16th. In the meantime we would be glad to circulate any intermediate studies among the members if there are any matters that cannot be delayed until September.

Sincerely yours,

William Walton
Chairman

Honorable Bernard L. Boutin
Administrator
General Services Administration
Washington, D. C. 20405

EXHIBIT A

July 9, 1964

Dear Mr. Green:

The Commission of Fine Arts at its meeting on June 24th considered a revised design for the office building proposed at 500 North Capitol Street (S. L. 64-144).

The overall massing appears to be satisfactory and the proportions are generally good but should be strengthened by heightening the shadow effects on the ground and penthouse floor. This can be accomplished by establishing deep setbacks of the walls at both these locations.

With a deep recess at the ground floor, however, it becomes necessary to modify the elevations so that masonry walls on the other floors will not appear incongruous with the light and open structure below. Rather than employing traditional window openings in an unbroken limestone wall, it was suggested that some element reflecting the interior framing system be introduced on the facades. This should lighten the effect and also relate the structure visible on the ground floor with the rest of the design.

The Commission plans no further meeting until September, but we indicated to the architects and owner that new studies could be circulated among the members by mail so that there will be no delay to the project.

Sincerely yours,

William Walton
Chairman

Mr. Julian P. Green
Assistant Superintendent
of Licenses and Permits
District Building, Rm. 106
Washington, D. C. 20004

EXHIBIT B

July 6, 1939

Dear Mr. Thom:

The Committee of Ten Acres at its meeting on June 30th considered a revised design for the office building proposed for 700 North Capitol Street (S. R. 5-1-1M).

The overall massing appears to be satisfactory and the proportions are generally good but should be strengthened by emphasizing the double columns on the central and projecting floor. This can be accomplished by extending deeply recessed panels of the walls on both sides somewhat.

With a deep recess at the ground floor, however, it becomes necessary to modify the elevations on that second story on the other floors will not appear incongruous with the light and open treatment below. Perhaps some projecting treatment window openings to an extension thereof will give the required sense of support to the floors above. This would likewise enhance the appearance of the building. The detail sketches submitted also indicate the excessive visible on the ground floor with the heat of the design.

The Committee wishes to further suggest that consideration be indicated on the sketches and cornice that the elevation could be strengthened among the members by such an item that will be in keeping in the project.

Sincerely yours,

William Mundie
Chairman

Mr. John P. Thom
Assistant Superintendent
of Libraries and Museums
Interior Building, Rm. 120
Washington, D. C.

July 9, 1964

Dear General Duke:

At its meeting on June 24th, the Commission of Fine Arts considered further studies of the new Junior High School at 16th and Irving Streets, N. W.

The revised plan is much better than earlier versions. The circulation is clearer and the exterior massing has been greatly simplified. However, the emphasis on the vertical treatment of the principal facades seemed somewhat heavy and inconsistent with the rest of the design. The Commission felt there should be additional elevation studies made with some expression of the floors and other horizontal elements. A sketch the architect brought with him showed a setback on the first floor of the 16th Street elevation and seemed to indicate a good direction for further study.

It was also noted that the classroom areas were organized in a regular pattern that could lend itself to an interesting expression on the exterior. By recessing the stairs on the Irving Street elevation, the three classroom elements would be clearly articulated.

The Commission plans no formal meetings until September, but in the meantime we would be glad to circulate among the members any new material the architect may want to present in order to avoid unnecessary delay.

Sincerely yours,

William Walton
Chairman

Brig. General Charles M. Duke
Engineer Commissioner for
the District of Columbia
District Building
Washington, D. C. 20004

EXHIBIT C

Dear General Dean:

It is exciting to know that the Commission is [illegible] the [illegible] and loving devotion to it.

The revised plan is well below [illegible] the distribution is adequate and the [illegible] quality admirable. However, the adoption of the project [illegible] of the original Olympia Airport [illegible] Improvement with the [illegible] of the Olympia. The [illegible] this there should be additional [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]

July 9, 1964

Dear General Duke:

At its meeting on June 24th, the Commission of Fine Arts considered a design for the J. Hayden Johnson Junior High School at Bruce and Robinson Streets, S. E.

The plan appeared to be a good solution to a difficult site condition. The building was well-located and took advantage of various grade changes by separating the building into several wings, joined by open courts and corridors. The only change in the plan the Commission recommended involved the main entrance which was unnecessarily complicated. A single unified court, located back toward the lobby, would not only look better than three separate entrances but would provide improved circulation as well. This change might also help to alleviate the awkward connection between the auditorium and the classroom wing where the two are joined at an angle.

The architect requested the opportunity to have a wider range in the selection of brick for the building in the event this material is used. The Commission agrees that the standard Red Occaquan brick used on so many district projects has its limitations. Some way ought to be found to permit the Department of Buildings and Grounds and the architects to use other colors when conditions are appropriate.

Sincerely yours,

William Walton
Chairman

Brig. General Charles M. Duke
Engineer Commissioner for
the District of Columbia
District Building
Washington, D. C. 20004

Dear General Duke:

At the meeting on June 25th, the Commission of the Arts considered a design for use of Virginia Precinct Police Corps of Bruce and Robinson Streeting S. W.

The plan appeared to be a good location in a difficult site condition. The building was well-designed and fine example of modern precast concrete by mechanically the building into several wings, joined by open courts and corridors. The only change in the plan the Commission recommends therefore is, with the wings which are unnecessarily complicated. A simpler method could, however, locate the lobby, avoid the only local feature this large structure entrance but already poorly improved circulation as well. This change might also help to alleviate the security connection between the administration the classrooms when there are [illegible] as well.

The building required this specially to have [illegible] change in the selection of brick for the building as the [illegible] this obtained it used. The Commission agrees that the [illegible] and that Glenmore brick used as an very effective purpose has its limitations. They may ought to be used to specify the Department of Buildings and Grounds and the architects to use other colors when conditions are appropriate.

Sincerely yours,

Phillip Hubley
Chairman

Maj. General Charles G. Duke
Engineer Commissioner for
the District of Columbia
District Building
Washington, D. C. 20004

July 9, 1964

Ref: S. L. 64-150

Dear Mr. Green:

At its meeting on June 24th, the Commission of Fine Arts considered the designs of the new windows to be installed in the District Building at 1350 "E" Street, N. W.

They are fairly heavy in appearance and as a result are not as good as the old ones. But the Commission feels that the change will not be too noticeable from the outside if the frames are a dark color such as bronze. This can best be achieved by treating the metal itself. If this proves too expensive, however, painting would also achieve essentially the same effect, again using a dark metallic color.

For the Commission of Fine Arts:

Sincerely yours,

William Walton
Chairman

Mr. Julian P. Green
Assistant Superintendent
of Licenses and Permits
106 District Building
Washington, D. C. 20004

July 9, 1964

Dear Commander Jacks:

The Commission of Fine Arts, at its meeting on June 24th, approved preliminary designs for the Operations and Technical Services Building at the Naval Research Laboratory.

There were two designs presented to the Commission, and the one shown on Yards and Docks Drawing No. 981001 was by far the better. It was a simple, straightforward expression of the program and, with proper handling of details, it should develop into a good building. A number of details were discussed, in particular the elimination of the overhang on the cornice and the retention of the column faces and floor slabs in the same plane.

Although the Commission plans no formal meetings until September, we would be glad to review any refinements to the design that may be developed before then if you submit them through the staff.

For the Commission of Fine Arts:

Sincerely yours,

William Walton
Chairman

Commander N. M. Jacks, USN
Deputy Officer in Charge
of Construction
Bldg. 57, U. S. Naval Station
Washington, D. C. 20390